

Flight Expo

Sierra Vista Airport hosts two day celebration - **Page 3**



Away we go

Local school visits Libby Army Airfield - **B4**

The Fort Huachuca Scout



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Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil

Retirement ceremony

The post will host its quarterly retirement ceremony at 4 p.m. Friday on Brown Parade Field.

Soldiers retiring are Sgt. 1st Class Shauna Whipple, Company A, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Eaton, Company E, 305th Military Intelligence Battalion.

New, improved CAC

The Fort Huachuca Commanders Access Channel (Channel 97) is pleased to announce several new programming changes.

Beginning today at 10 a.m., watch the fort Two-Minute Report followed by Army news, Air Force news, Navy/Marine Corps news and a special Veterans Department educational video. The same block of programming will run every day at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Stay tuned to Channel 97 and The Fort Huachuca Scout for more updates on programming changes.

CFC update

As of Monday, the people of Fort Huachuca have generously donated \$155,256.20 to the CFC. The campaign ends Nov. 7. Please see your unit coordinator in order to make your donation.

Turn Around Point

Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. will be the reopening of the post chaplain's Turn Around Point. The TAP will be open, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday.

In the future, hours will be based on customer comment sheets available at the Turn Around Point.

Commissary Hours

The commissary will be open on Veterans' Day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

INSIDE

OIF validates IMA's mission

The newly formed Installation Management Agency has proven its worth while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. **Page3**

'Voice of the Desert' battalion joins new brigade

54th Signal Battalion no longer under the 11th Signal Brigade in move to bring technical expertise and experience to 160th Strategic Signal Brigade. **Page4**

Protecting little boys, ghouls on Halloween

The 306th Military Intelligence Battalion will be protecting trick-or-treaters for the second year in a row during Halloween. **Page4**

Taxi inspections leads to deadlines, repairs

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
DONALD SPARKS

NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

Sixty percent of taxis operating on Fort Huachuca were deadlined following annual safety inspections by the Post Safety Office Oct. 21-23.

The Post Safety Office does the inspections once a year while the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Auto Craft facility conducts inspections three times a year to ensure the taxi companies that do business on the installation meet safety requirements.

According to Janet Russell, contract specialist, the taxis must meet taxi regulations covered by the state and the city of Sierra Vista, in addition to post regulations.

"The taxi companies are

given advanced notice from the Fort Huachuca Contracting office of the inspection dates so they can correct any deficiencies prior to the inspection," said Russell. "If they have any deficiencies, we give them time to correct them and if they can't be corrected, we recommend the company to replace the car with another."

If the cab company cannot, the vehicle loses its MWR sticker and post sticker allowing it access on the installation.

During the inspections nine of 15 taxis were deadlined with deficiencies ranging from brake failures, broken seat belts, broken lights and turn signals, and gas leaks.

Inspection areas include horn, windshield wipers, tires,

See TAXI, Page 3



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Taxi driver, Larry Leach, performs a routine preventive maintenance check during a break of action on post Tuesday. All the local taxi companies were inspected by the Fort Huachuca Safety Office during annual inspections to ensure the taxis meet safety guidelines.



Courtesyphoto

Capt. Salah Kayed, HHC, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade, reenlists Sgt. Deborah Ashby.

Army meets end-strength for fourth straight year

BY JENNIFER GUNN
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army has met its end-strength goal for fiscal year 2003 for the fourth consecutive year within its active-duty, Army Reserve and National Guard.

Actual active-duty new accessions were 74,132, exceeding the fiscal goal of 73,800, while the Army Reserve recruited 27,365 soldiers, surpassing its mission of 26,400.

Recruiting, although the most well known tactic the used to meet end-strength goals, is a function based on the end-strength of the Army.

And the more soldiers that stay in the Army, the less new ones are needed, said Douglas Smith, spokesman for U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

Recruiting Command not only provides the number of soldiers we need, but we are also concerned with recruiting the right kind of soldiers, Smith said.

And once the Army gets the right soldiers, it must focus on keeping them.

Despite reports from a Stars and Stripes poll stating some 49 percent of Soldiers in Iraq are "not likely" or are "very unlikely" to reenlist after their current obligations, the

active Army exceeded its retention goal this year with 54,151 Soldiers retained against a goal of 51,000.

Soldiers are deciding to stay in the Army because they like their jobs and they have good leadership, said Sgt. Maj. James A. Vales, senior career counselor at the Pentagon.

This is also true of the Army National Guard. The Guard had an end-strength of 350,835, just over its goal of 350,000.

According to an Army National Guard spokesman, units returning from deployments

See REUP, Page 4

Life after active duty?

Reserves, National Guard option for soldiers departing active duty

PFC JOY PARIANTE
SCOUT STAFF

So you're preparing to end your term of service, or maybe you've had your fill of changing duty stations and you're ready to pick a location and settle down.

The Reserve and National Guard components of the U.S. Army allow you to continue your military service after your active duty time is through.

The Reserves and National Guard are a one weekend a month and two weeks of annual training a year commitment that allows you to continue training, getting promoted, accruing retirement points and taking advantage of military benefits like the Post Exchange and medical coverage.

Currently there are seven Reserve units stationed at Fort Huachuca, said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy L. Sizemore, Army Reserve and Inactive Ready Reserve Career Counselor. They cover everything from engineering to maintenance and drill sergeants.

According to Sizemore, most people join the military for either education or adventure. "Those who join it for the adventure don't tend to get out," he added.

Many soldiers end up missing the comrades, Sizemore said. "They miss having someone to complain to and people who understand all the acronyms."

Those who joined the military for education can continue learning and training with the Reserves.

Reserve and Guard soldiers can get tuition assistance from their unit and still collect their active duty GI Bill, said Master Sgt. Vernon D. Walker, Reserve Component Transition NCO.

A soldier can opt to retrain in a different military occupational specialty upon arriving at their unit, Walker said. The continued skills these soldiers are acquiring makes them even more valuable to civilian employers, Sizemore said.

See OPTION, Page 3

Happy Halloween

Ghouls and ghosts on post will be celebrating the spookiest night of the year Friday. Be careful of the little trick-or-treaters creeping around the neighborhood. See related Halloween articles and safety tips on Pages B7-B8.



Photo by Beth Harlan

Teamtalk

BY MG “SPIDER” AND
MARTY MARKS

Happy Halloween! We’ve got several celebrations planned for tomorrow evening here on Fort Huachuca. Of course, kids everywhere will be ringing doorbells and yelling “trick or treat.” Trick or treating on post is from 6-8 p.m. and for kids up to age 12. All children nine and under must be accompanied by a parent.

The chaplains will be hosting a harvest festival tomorrow evening, from 5-7 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. There will be refreshments, as well as games and prizes. Everyone is invited, and if you have any questions, call Dan DeVeney, the director of religious education, at 533-4598.

Our middle schoolers can enjoy an evening of music and dancing at the youth center tomorrow night from 7-10 p.m. Cost is \$2 for Youth Services members; \$3 for nonmembers. Costumes are optional, but prizes will be awarded in several different categories, so be sure and wear your Halloween best! For more information, call Debbie Wambach at 533-7038.

You can see we’ve got lots of neat events lined up. Remember, though, safety is paramount. Whether you’re partying, going for a drive, or

are out with the children while they’re trick or treating, be safe and act responsibly.

Also, remember that we



have a teen curfew here on post. Kids 17 and under are not allowed out in public on Fort Huachuca, either on foot or in a vehicle, without a parent or guardian between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and midnight to 5 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information on the curfew, call our MPs at 533-3000 or 533-2181. We want to help keep our kids safe, folks, and we appreciate your support of this policy.

Just a few words about a super program available here at no charge to all soldiers... Are you thinking about making a big purchase? Do you have questions about products, contracts, consumer rights and

responsibilities? Leigh Henderson, at 533-2437, is our consumer affairs and financial assistance program coordinator, and she can provide you with lots of information and guidance. For example, she has access to CAR-FAX if you want details about a potential vehicle purchase. Be sure and give her a call so she can help you avoid any big – and potentially costly – mistakes.

Marty and I want to leave you thinking about communication. That’s what it’s all about, folks – letting others know what’s going on, and making an effort to keep yourself informed. That goes for everything from family communication (do I hear generation gap, anyone?) to communication at your workplace and in your unit. While we do our best to make sure you all are kept informed about what’s happening here on post as well as things that affect our military “family” around the world, it’s up to you to take an active role in information gathering. Use your family readiness groups, your chain of command, our local information sources like the Scout and the Commander’s Access Channel, the monthly Round Up, and the super staff here on post. All are super ways to keep informed about what’s happening.

Thanks for working together to make Fort Huachuca such a super place to live and work.



BY CHAPLAIN (MAJ)
DENNIS R. NITSCHKE

DEPUTY COMMAND CHAPLAIN, NETCOM

I’m reprinting most of an article from last year about Halloween because so many commented on it and because many people get “up-tight” about Halloween and all they “think” it is. I believe that knowledge is power and that the power of knowledge overcomes the spirit of fear and misunderstanding.

October 31st is Halloween. All Saints Eve, All Soul’s Day and Reformation are also celebrated on or around the 31st. My purpose at this time is to do some education around these holidays – you, like me, may find some interesting facts around this particular day.

Halloween has become controversial because some cults and devil worshippers have adopted it as their major holiday. However, it was a new year festival in Ireland by the Celts hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. “Samhain” was the holiday that marked the end of summer and ushered in the Celtic new year – 1 November.

The Irish Celts believed there was a veil between the living and the dead and during Samhain it was the thinnest – and the dead of the previous year came back to look for living bodies to possess. So, people dressed in scary costumes and were destructive in order to scare away the spirits. Jack-O’-Lanterns were originally made by hollowing out turnips, making skull-like faces on them to ward off demons. Bobbing for apples came from the “Ordeal by Water,” which was the thought of the passage of the soul to the “hereafter” over the waters that separate “here” and “there.” As the years passed, so did belief in the spirits, but the festival

remained, with children dressing and acting like the spirits – asking for treats or food from house to house.

Between 700 and 800 A.D. the Roman Catholic Church added dimensions to the celebration focusing on eternal life rather than death and celebrating the saints rather than fearing spirits. 1 November became All Saints Day, All Souls Day or All Hallowed (holy ones) Day. The day before, 31 October, became All Hallows Eve – soon shortened to Halloween.

Irish immigrants brought the holiday to the United States in the mid-19th century. The Germans grasped the celebration with gusto and added witches, black cats, and pranks. “Trick or treating” became “very much” American after regular appearance during the holiday in the 1930s. The U.S. style of Halloween was exported in the 1960s back to Europe and later Asia.

Today churches and families hold group celebrations on Halloween, often in costumes of saints and famous religious people in order to reinforce the Christian side of Halloween’s origins. Much of the time, the churches call them “Harvest Festivals” to get away from the Halloween motif. Sadly, American commercialism is neglecting the religious aspect of Halloween. Because of fears of children on the street at night and tainted candy, this holiday may one day become a casualty of modern life.

The church adopted the celebration as an example of remembering those who led us to Christ and to honor their lives as saints among us. Many churches remember, by name, those who died in the past year who now rest with God.

So, for what it’s worth, Halloween is not a holiday to fear, but one which we can celebrate life, particularly the lives of those who died in the past year who modeled Christian or moral living. If some “bad guys” use the day for something it wasn’t intended for, so be it, but now we know better. Halloween is a night of fun, of life, of getting together with friends and family in thought, and perhaps worship, about models from the past who influenced us for the future. So, Happy Halloween!!!

Sensing session

BY LT. COL. JEFFARQUETTE
USAIC&FH INSPECTOR GENERAL

Maj. Gen. James “Spider” Marks, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, continues to conduct quality of life sensing sessions and identify issues, which are tasked out to the appropriate agencies/activities within the command for response and/or resolution.

Contained in this article are some of those issues, along with responses from the agencies/activities responsible for each area.

Issue: During a recent self-help class, there were children running around out of control, distracting the attendees.

Response: The Directorate of Installation Support recognizes that it can be hard for parents to find childcare to attend this mandatory class and has not prohibited parents from bringing their children to the class. In order to address this issue,

DIS has ensured its instructors are aware of their responsibility to inform parents they need to control their children if they are being disruptive. As a reminder to attendees, DIS has also added a line in bold on its letter that states, “We request that children are not disruptive during this class.”

Issue: A comment was made that programs and services to support military members and their families are lacking.

Response: The CG explained that Army Community Service has many robust programs to support military members and their families and believes there is a lack of knowledge about just how many programs are available. To educate the community on the many ACS services and functions and what they are designed to do, he directed that an article be placed in The Fort Huachuca Scout listing all the ACS services and functions including points of contact for each.

The ACS officer was interviewed and an article appeared in the Oct. 2 issue of The Scout.

Issue: Fort Huachuca does not have a woodshop. The CG would like to know if there is a requirement under common level of services to have a woodshop. Also, why don’t we have one?

Response: There is no requirement, per Army Regulation 215-1, to have a woodshop. A woodshop is one of seven suggested forms of self-expression to develop both the mind and hand in the creation of projects (Chapter 8 Para 5-3 a-g). Currently, Fort Huachuca supports the other six. A woodshop would require a qualified, specialized instructor, a building with the proper environmental controls, and the purchase of the equipment. Funding for all of this specialized manpower, buildings and equipment is not, and has not been, available. The interest level has not shown that this would be a facility worthy of the investment; however, if interest peaks, and/or should funding

See Sensing, Page B7

Scout on the Street



To be a sumo wrestler.

Omar Lopez, 10



I guess go trick or treating.

Daniel Coulston, 10



To be a vampire again.

Jacob Deinhardt, 9



I am going to “Hallelujah Night.”

Reae Capers, 10



To be a ninja and go trick or treating with two of my friends.

Cecil Anderson, 9



Just walk around my neighborhood and be “Scream.”

Jonathan Long, 9

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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OIF validates installation management concept

BY BEAU WHITTINGTON
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Operation Iraqi Freedom has proven naysayers wrong about the Installation Management Agency’s value, says Maj. Gen. Anders B. Aadland.

Aadland, the agency commander, admits even he wasn’t sure the centralization was such a good idea when he heard the initial announcement of the plan to manage base operations funds from Washington.

“I learned early on the goodness of the initiative was not obvious,” Aadland said about his first days in his new job. “It wasn’t something everybody was going to rejoice over.”

The agency opened its door Oct. 1, 2002, with what the commander describes, “as about a 75 percent solution – not totally ready, not totally staffed.” While it was a project in development, then Army Secretary Thomas White didn’t want it to become just another idea that got put on the shelf.

“Let’s grab this thing and go,” White told Aadland and his key staff.

Not fully staffed, or funded, the leaders took what people and money they had to work around a few corners their first fiscal year and clean up the process when the agency becomes fully funded in fiscal 2004.

They knew they could find the answers in a “best case scenario.” But, what if there was a war? What if the Army did something they couldn’t predict that took money away? That could make the agency, “look like we’re not doing what we’ve said we’d be able to do,” Aadland said.

War did come. So did the questions.

Could they support the power projection platform? Could they deliver on the single promise of letting the war-fighting commanders focus on the front and not worry about the installation management mission.

“Operation Iraqi Freedom put us in an operational stance where we had to come through,” Aadland said.

The seven regional offices ran emergency operations around the clock. They lined up as partners the commands at the front and delivered their part behind the lines.

“It shocked us into a level of maturity and partnership that had to come,” Aadland said.

While the operations transformation proved sound, naysayers began questioning the commitment of keeping base operations money where it belongs.

“You never program for a war, so when we went, (the Army) had to rob somebody’s cookie jar to get the troops into Baghdad,” Aadland said.

Senior commanders flowed about \$600 million of garrison funds into the fight.

But, they set up some new rules – they promised to pay it back.

And, they did.

When the president received supplemental monies from Congress to fight the war, the Army repaid the funds diverted for early operations. The migration of base operations funds that totaled hundreds of millions of dollars in fiscal 2001 and 2002 was \$5 million in fiscal 2003.

“It was a first step into the programming discipline we’d been talking about,” Aadland said about the change. “It’s no longer easy to pick the low-hanging fruit from the tree.”

“At one year in we are at the halfway point,” Aadland said about the transformation. “We haven’t proven our efficacy yet.”

The next stop on the agency’s road to becoming more efficient is to move installations to a common standard around the world.

“We will try to do things more efficiently and share ideas on how to apply those principles so everybody can benefit,” Aadland promised. “To eliminate the haves and the have-nots.”

The agency has developed standard garrison organizational outlines for small, medium, and large installations and are proceeding in staffing the manning document. Throughout fiscal 2004, they will flesh them out.

“Some installations are close; some are leagues away,” Aadland said. “It will take some time for this migration.”

The first two phases of the A-76 program threatened the workforces. Now, the “Third Wave” is surging a shock wave through it making workers ask, “Why is the Army hell-bent on taking away my job.”

“It’s not,” Aadland stresses. “But, it has said everything is going to be reviewed. The process will continue, but with more efficient guidance.”

The general advises commands not to build a Most Efficient Organization to beat a contractor — do a plan to do the job.

“Whenever you can show a 30 percent savings, the Army isn’t going to stop,” he said. “Our challenge has been to educate our people on the optimal use of the private sector. We’ll never be able to do it all in house. We will need industry to help us. And, we have to do it more efficiently.”

Garrison commanders are asking how are they going to fit into the standard garrison structure while they are facing these studies.

“When the standard garrison construction doesn’t mesh with A-76 configuration,” Aadland said, “We’re going to wait them out. If you have a contract that is set, and working, we will work the management scheme in the direction of the concept, but we won’t disrupt the contract. We will wait until the end of the contract and take another look.”

For example, A-76 has had a detrimental impact on master planning. Master planners don’t make widgets—they are not producers. Under the A-76 process they have been seen as overhead.

“In some cases, we put the fox in the hen house,” he explained. “Because we took the quality assurance people away.

“Many installation master plans atrophied—the art was lost. The key master planners became casualties of downsizing. We cannot afford to not



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Spc. Ricque Fann, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, United States Army Garrison wears the new Installation Management Agency patch during an inactivation ceremony earlier this year.

have vision of where our installation will be in five, 10 or 20 years. Master planning is going to get resourced.”

“Show me the money. Show me the money,” was what the chorus garrison commanders sang at the first agency commanders’ conference last month. They were concerned about getting the resources and people they need to make a difference.

“When I talk to my regional directors,” said Aadland, “I tell them, you, region director, are the focus lens of the agency. But, more importantly, you are the focus lens for the garrison commanders to see clearly what’s happening in Washington.”



Photos by Spc. Matthew Chlosta



Flight celebration

Left: Staff Sgt. Bryan Bartkus, U.S. Marine RECON, Military Free Fall School Instructor rolls up his chute after his jump from 8,000 feet during a free fall parachute demonstration Oct. 25, for the crowd at the Sierra Vista Airport’s Celebration of Flight Expo. Above: Nicholas Vandivort, 8, a third grader at Veritas Christian Community School enjoys his ride in the cockpit of a single engine plane as part of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 776, Young Eagles’ first flight program, Oct. 24 at Sierra Vista Airport.

TAXI from Page 1

door latches, belts and shocks.

All of the companies that failed the inspections made the necessary repairs, have been re-inspected and are providing service to consumers on post.

“All of the companies complied with our inspection results and met the required deadline for repairs,” said George Flora Jr., Fort Huachuca safety specialist.

Flora mentioned if a company failed to make repairs and continued to drive a taxi on post, the company will be cited and they could possibly lose their contract with the installation.

“We just don’t take their word that it’s fixed,” Flora said. “They must have a receipt from a repair shop downtown. And if a cab company has their own mechanic, the company must still produce an invoice as well to show the repair work has been done.”

Flora said he’s not trying to make the taxi companies look bad or interrupt their businesses, but it’s his job to ensure safety is a top priority.

“It’s my job to make sure the cars are

safe and the soldiers are taken care of,” Flora said. “The soldier depends on the Safety Office to make sure that cab is safe for him and his family. That’s what drives me to do this job right.”

In his two years of conducting taxi inspections, Jesus Ramirez, mechanic, said he not only inspects the areas required on the list, but he also looks for other potential safety violations.

“I look for oil leaks, brake fluid and transmission leaks, cracked cylinders and other little things,” Ramirez said. “Because these are commercial cars and are being used more than an average car, the possibility of something breaking down is more likely. They can lose all of their fluids and it can be a dangerous situation.”

Ramirez added the inspections are a win-win for both the taxi companies and the soldiers.

“We’re helping the taxi company by doing preventive maintenance and we’re making sure the soldiers are riding in safe, clean cars,” Ramirez said.

OPTION from Page 1

more valuable to civilian employers, Sizemore said.

Upon entering the Reserves, a soldier maintains his or her active duty rank and also has the possibility of further promotions, said Walker.

The reserves are currently looking for warrant officers and they are offering a direct commission program for those who want to be commissioned officers, Sizemore added.

Some military intelligence units offer Military Intelligence Augmentee Attachments, Walker said.

These units fly a soldier from their home of record to a unit anywhere in the country for at least six drills out of the year, Sizemore said.

In addition to educational and training benefits, Reserve soldiers enjoy full Post Exchange benefits, limited commissary benefits, bonuses, space available travel within the United States, Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance and extra monthly

“They miss having someone to complain to and people who understand all the acronyms.

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy L. Sizemore, Army Reserve and Inactive Ready Reserve Career Counselor

income.

The Reserve Component Transition Center, located in Whitside Hall, has a listing of every Reserve and National Guard unit in the country, Walker said.

Soldiers interested in the reserves and still in the on active duty, but preparing to ETS, call Walker at 533-1121.

If you’re already part of the inactive ready reserves or would like to reenlist and join the Reserves, call Sizemore at 538-6146.

‘Voice of the Desert’ joins ‘Finest of the First’

Battalion joins new brigade in strategic signal mission

BY SPC. M. WILLIAM PETERSEN
11TH SIGNAL BRIGADE PAO

CAMP DOHA, KUWAIT — After spending more than a decade serving the Southwest Asia theater of operations, the 54th Signal Battalion is preparing for a change.

The battalion known as the “Voice of the Desert” fell under a new brigade as of Oct. 15 when the 54th Signal Battalion moved from the 11th Signal Brigade to the recently activated, “Finest of the First” 160th Strategic Signal Brigade.

The 54th Signal Battalion brings both technical expertise and experience to their new brigade. The 54th served in-theater strategic signal needs both as an independent battalion under Network Enterprise Technology Command and the 11th Signal Brigade

“The 54th was the only communications unit the Army had in-theater. It wasn’t until 1998 that we were affiliated with the 11th Signal Brigade. Before then we were directly under the 9th Army Signal Command,” said Lt. Col. John Schrader, commander of the 54th Signal Battalion. “Even with that mission, we were a small battalion.”

Schrader’s unit will remain headquartered in Kuwait. While the battalion’s soldiers will be wearing a new unit patch on their shoulders, many ties to the Thunderbirds of the 11th Signal Brigade remain.

When the 54th transitioned to the “Finest of the First,” one of its companies, 385th Signal Company, remained assigned to the 11th Signal Brigade (under 504th Signal Battalion,) however, it will remain under the operational control of the 54th providing day-to-day tactical communications capability for the Army Central Command commander.

“Obviously as a commander I will miss having this great organization within my brigade,” said Col. Brian R. Hurley, commander of the 11th Signal Brigade. “However, times change and the needs of our customers and this theater change. With the long awaited activation of the 160th Strategic Signal Brigade, it only makes sense that the 54th would move over and become one of the 160th’s two standing battalions.

“The synergy to be gained by this reorganization will greatly enhance network operations within this theater and will mean better information services for our warfighters... The 54th will continue to have close ties with the Thunderbird Brigade as long as its soldiers wear the Thunderbird combat patch on their right sleeve.”

Hurley and 11th Signal Brigade’s Command Sgt. Maj. Oliver Forbes presented the soldiers of the 54th Signal Battalion their Thunderbird combat patches for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The patches were authorized for wear immediately following the changeover.

Despite the scope of their mission, the relatively small num-

ber of soldiers in the 54th Signal Battalion has the confidence of both their former brigade and their gaining brigade. For a small enclave, the “Voice of the Desert” has been quick to adapt to changing missions, environments and units.

“The 54th has proven its mettle again and again over the years,” said Hurley. “They have adjusted their mission and organization to meet the demands placed upon them. Their soldiers have consistently met every challenge and provided reliable, professional communications support to the theater.”

The 54th originally provided support across the SWA theater to include Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait. When the War on Terrorism began, 54th was tasked to provide support in other areas of operations in SWA.

The Army recognized not only a need for a permanent signal brigade in-theater, but also a battalion to split up the support mission, according to Schrader.

“The 54th Signal Battalion is one of the two battalions assigned to the 160th Strategic Signal Brigade,” said Col. John Blaine, commander of the 160th Strategic Signal Brigade “The 160th’s mission is a strategic signal mission covering the entire CENTCOM (U.S. Central Command) area of responsibility.

Through advanced planning and coordination between the two brigades and the 54th, the transition of the unit is expected by all parties to proceed smoothly.

“My initial impression is that very little will be affected by the changeover. Because of the close relationship between 11th Signal Brigade and 160th Strategic Signal Brigade, I anticipate very little change,” said Schrader. “Col. Hurley’s planning has made this all easy,” said Schrader. “So easy, in fact, that the biggest impact for me will be visiting the sewing shop to have a new patch sewn on.”

Schrader took command of the 54th Signal Battalion, Aug. 13, 2003 after serving as a Congressional Fellow for Rep. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii. He is no stranger to the 54th Signal Battalion, however. Schrader served as a company commander and battalion S-3 in the unit from 1994 to 1996.

“The change I’ve seen since then has been that the 54th is no longer on the frontier alone. Once we were part of the 11th Signal Brigade, we had strong ties to Fort Huachuca. ... We got a lot of support and the 11th Signal Brigade made the transition into wartime much easier when bringing in forces. There were no command and control issues,” said Schrader. “The 11th Signal Brigade is probably the most capable organization I’ve ever worked with. From the smallest tactical asset to the biggest strategic equipment, they either have it or know how to use it.



Photo by Spc. M. William Petersen

Command Sgt. Maj. Oliver Forbes, command sergeant major for 11th Signal Brigade, distributes “Thunderbird” combat patches to the soldiers of 54th Signal Battalion following a brigade run Oct. 15. The run signified the battalion’s last brigade activity as part of the Thunderbirds before transitioning to the 160th Signal Brigade.

It’s been great for the 54th to be a part of that. Even though we’re moving across the street to a new brigade, we’ll always have a tight relationship with the 11th and be able to plug in and do what we need to do.”

For Blaine, the addition of the 54th Signal Battalion has been eagerly anticipated since before the formation of his brigade in Kuwait.

“Since the day I stepped foot in Kuwait last June I have been continually impressed with the professionalism, motivation and expertise of the soldiers and contracted workforce of the 54th,” said Blaine. “Having observed the leadership for the past three months I feel extremely confident in the 54th’s ability to accomplish their newly assigned mission.”

REUP from Page 1

had only a 10 percent attrition rate as opposed to a 17.4 percent attrition rate within the entire Army National Guard.

“This tells us these people feel what they are doing is important,” said Mark Allen, Guard Bureau Public Affairs Officer.

While there is concern about retention based on the affect extended deployments and back-to-back deployments are having on soldiers, Vales said that retention is something that is monitored on a daily basis.

“It’s just like somebody who works at the water works of a town,” said Lt. Col. Franklin F. Childress, G1 Public Affairs Officer. “If they see a problem, you can tweak the system to fix the problem right then.

“It’s not like we’re going to wait until Sept. 30 and then say, ‘Oh, the sky is falling!’

They’re able to turn different knobs and things to make sure nothing is going to cause the Army to not make mission.”

Managing soldier retention and end-strength is something the Army has become extremely talented at, Childress said, and 49 percent attrition may not be a bad thing.

Army retention goals are based on the eligible population. According to Vales, that includes only about 30 percent of the large number of initial term soldiers.

“We actually retain probably around 40 to 50 percent of that population,” said Vales, “so if you ask an initial term population are you going to stay, and 49 percent said no, that’s about right. That’s about the way it always works out whether we’re in a conflict or not. We don’t expect to keep everyone in the Army.”

306th MI Bn.: Keeping boys, ghouls safe

PFC. JOY PARIANTE
SCOUT STAFF

The streets of Fort Huachuca’s Gatewood Community will be a little safer for the second Halloween in a row thanks to its housing sponsor, the 306th Military Intelligence Battalion.

The Halloween Street Watch was implemented by Capt. Ira L. Smith when he took command of the 306th last year.

Volunteer soldiers from the unit “provide another set of eyes” and help “cue the military police” to trouble, Smith said.

Last year the program was very successful, Smith said. There were no incidents, soldiers found a lost trick-or-treater and they

thwarted an egg thrower before he had the chance to deface any property.

The eight volunteers will be patrolling the streets in uniform with orange, reflective road-guard vests and flashlights.

Smith said the soldiers will patrol in pairs and keep vigilant for disorderly conduct and the general safety of the children.

“The watch is to ensure trick-or-treating is safe,” Smith said. “We can make sure the children have a good time; no one gets hurt or lost and that there are no incidents of vandalism.”

The MI soldiers will be out and about in the Gatewood Community on Halloween night during the trick-or-treating hours of 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.



Photo by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Metal pretzels

Brad Hayworth, technical representative, Big Top Fabric, uses a wrench to tighten bolts on the metal lattice work as his team constructs the new canopy at the Main Gate, Oct. 23.

West Nile Virus

Oct. 18-24

SPC. MATTHEWE. CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

Advisories from Arizona state and other agencies regarding our area:

-Mosquitoes positive for WNV have been found in the immediate area and two new human cases were reported in Arizona last week.

New cases of WNV in our area:

-Two human cases of WNV were reported in Arizona last week. One was in Sells, the other in Tucson. Both individuals are recovering. This brings the statewide total to three for this year. Mosquitoes trapped approximately two weeks ago in the vicinity of Duke Road in Sierra Vista have tested positive for WNV. Additional WNV infected mosquitoes are likely.

National cases of WNV:

-As of last week, there were over 7,300 confirmed human infections and 155 deaths throughout the country. The number of new cases continues to decline in the northern most states.

Point of contact:

-For more information, e-mail Bruce Heran, manager, Safety Office at bruce.heran@hua.army.mil.

SENSING, from Page 2

become available, this issue will be readdressed.

Issue: A comment was made that the Child Development Center requires parents to call every month in order to reserve slots for the following month. It was felt this is not only inconvenient, but if a parent forgets to make the call on the specified day, they lose the slot. The suggestion was made that CDC operate on an exception basis, i.e. once kids are enrolled, they could stay enrolled until their parents withdraw them

Response: The only program the Child Development Center requires parents to call in for is the Hourly Reservation Program. The Hourly Program does not have permanent slots like the part-day or full-day programs. It is designed as first come first served reservation system with no permanent or standing reservations. Parents may call in on the third Monday of each month and reserve space for the following month. It is true that if they don’t call in advance, the time or day they need care may not be available. Patrons wanting care after the program capacity has been met will have their names placed on a waiting list. When a cancellation occurs, staff will contact patrons on the waiting list in the order in which they requested care. Children enrolled in the Hourly Program are never disenrolled and can always make a reservation if the desired timeframe is available. The Hourly Program is designed for people who need intermittent or unscheduled childcare. Parents needing care on a regular basis are encouraged to enroll in the full-day or part-day program. Based on the recommendations of the Army Family Action Plan Conference, the Hourly Reservation Program has been updated to provide additional spaces for those needing care on an intermittent basis.

Issue: Deals on Wheels Car Resale Lot is charging \$15 per month for soldiers to park their vehicles, but the soldiers are not getting anything in return. Many other installations offer free resale lots and even provide security without charging soldiers to park their cars there.

Response: The Deals on Wheels, Privately Owned Vehicle resale lot has been established through the combined efforts of the Directorate of Community Activities and the Directorate of Public Safety. This lot is the only authorized parking for stationary For Sale vehicles on Fort Huachuca. In March 2002, Marks signed a policy memorandum for this lot and its current operations. The reasonable fee is charged to maintain the paperwork and to ensure that POVs are properly handled. Prior to this lot, DPS was finding and marking cars as abandoned, in parking lots all over post. While there is no security, and patrons parked at their own risk, the visibility of this lot, and its location have proven to be an extremely low crime risk. The high rate of sale for POVs in this lot, also points to its success.

Issue: In order to use the archery range on-post, soldiers must join and pay dues to a club downtown. The CG requested an explanation of the arrangement for the archery range.

Response: The Huachuca Mountain Archers and Bowhunter’s Club was established as a registered Private Organization on post in 1986. The club is a non-profit organization and has maintained its status as a private organization for years, with the most current registration updated in June 2002 by Directorate of Community Activities. The POC for Private Organizations on post

See SENSING on Page 7

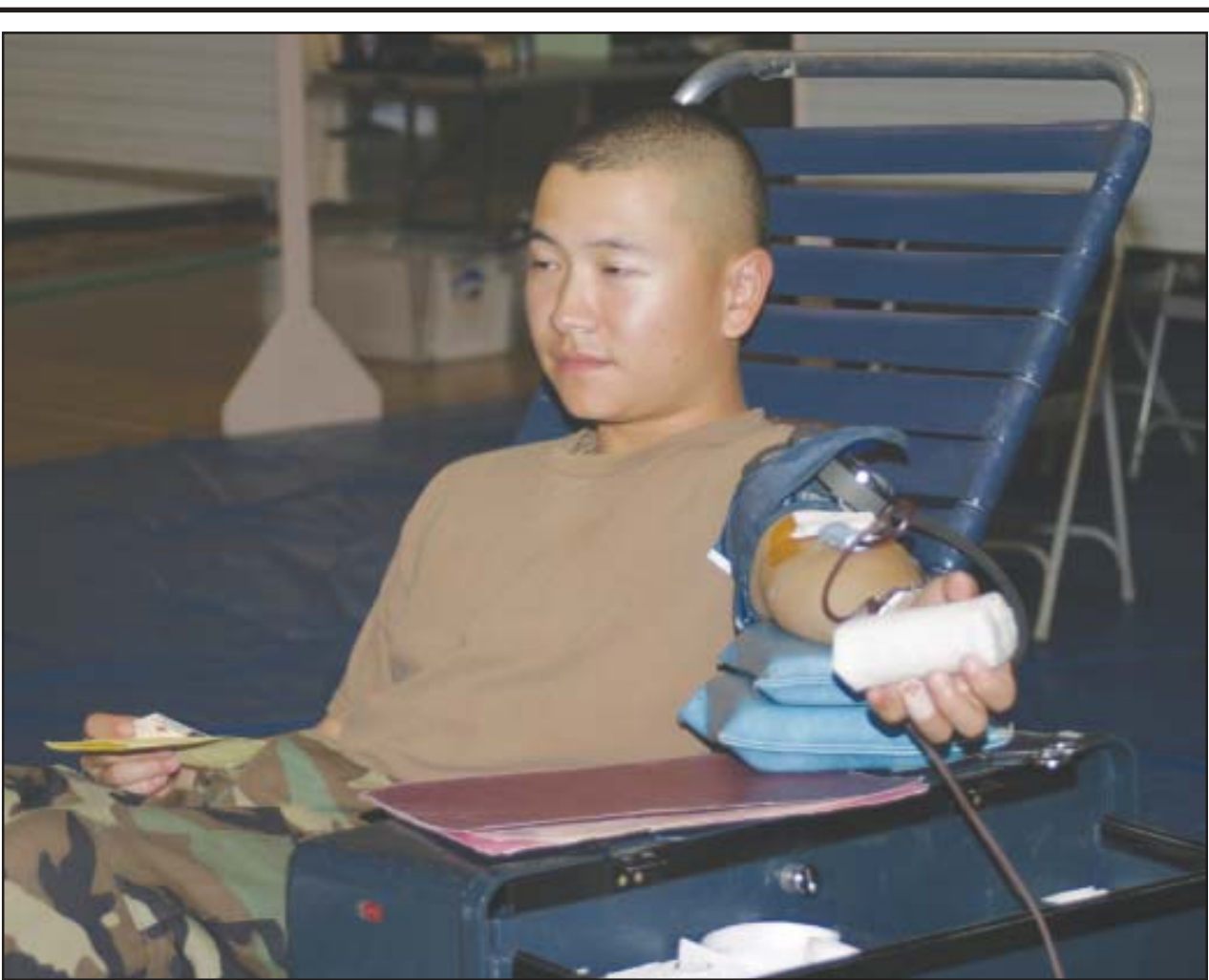


Photo by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Vampires beware

Pfc. Matthew Lee, Company A, 305th Military Intelligence Battalion, donates blood Oct. 16 at Eifler gym. The blood drive was held Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Eifler Gym. American Red Cross Blood Drives are usually scheduled monthly. Next drive is Nov. 7 at Murr Community Center from 12 to 6 p.m. and Dec. 12 at Eifler Gym from 12 to 8 p.m.

Get involved
Veterans’ Day Parade Nov. 11

Participate in honoring your veterans at the Nov. 11 Veterans’ Day parade down Fry Boulevard to Veterans’ Memorial Park in Sierra Vista. The parade begins at 9 a.m. Join community organizations in paying tribute to our veterans. Local businesses can participate by driving veterans who need a ride in their company vehicles. Marchers are encouraged to carry signs showing support of our veterans and troops or by entering a float in the parade. Veterans not affiliated with any veterans groups are also invited to participate. To register call Leo Pimple for veterans groups at 459-0103, Danny Fraiser for community groups at 417-6980, and Bonnie Hansen for individual veterans at 803-6846.

SENSING, from Page 5

is Marta Johnson at 533-2080. This program is not a public private venture, but a private organization. The club was granted a license to authorize the use of Army real property (30 acres of unimproved land within Training Area T) in November 2002. The Director of Installation Support maintains a real estate file on the club use of post land. The club also maintains the area within the archery range and coordinates their use with Range Control.

The club’s membership as a private organization is open to the public. According to the club’s constitution and by-laws, Article III - Membership: “Membership shall be granted to any person, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or religion. Membership dues shall be charged per year for each individual or family. Dues shall be used for the purchase of letterhead paper, envelopes, stamps, targets, equipment, trophies, and any other supplies necessary to operate the club. The club’s membership is open to the public, but it is expected that the majority will continue to be members of the Department of Defense family.”

The reason that a person must be a member of the club to shoot at the range is directly related to liability. A requirement of the lease allowing the club to operate on post is that it maintains liability insurance to cover it’s members and Fort Huachuca in the event of an accident. Their liability insurance covers only club members, so, therefore, only members of the club are allowed to shoot on the range. To obtain a membership application or information for the Huachuca Mountain Archers and Bowhunter’s Club, call Robert Voss at 456-0381 or Bob Ford at 417-1755.

Issue: A comment was made that residents of post housing not only have to pay a monthly fee to keep their vehicles in the RV lot, but must mow their spaces themselves.

Response: The RV Storage lot is mowed by employees of MWR Rents on an as needed basis. The need, of course, increases during the monsoon season.

Unfortunately, the facility is short-handed and the grass was not mowed before it became an eyesore. While patrons may mow and police their rented slots, it is not a requirement that they do so. MWR Rents has since mowed the entire lot, and will endeavor to keep the grass mowed on a more routine basis.

Issue: The gate guards are handing out papers listing mandatory personal protective equipment and requirements for motorcycle riders that appear ambiguous. The handout states “sturdy footwear. Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes are strongly encouraged,” leaving people wondering if it’s a requirement or a suggestion. The CG would like a response to be printed in The Scout giving the actual requirements out of the regulation in bullet format.

Response: The Directorate of Public Safety has corrected the flyer. Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes are required in accordance with AR 385-55. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. Following are the requirements for riding a motorcycle on the installation:

- Helmet must meet Department of Transportation requirements and be secured under the chin
- Goggles or face shield attached to a helmet (A motorcycle or moped windshield or fairing is not considered proper eye protection).
- Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes
- Long sleeve shirt or jacket
- Long trousers
- Full fingered gloves
- Bright colored upper garment for daytime; and a minimum of 50 square inches of reflective upper garment material (clearly visible/not covered) for nighttime.

Issue: Gas prices at the Army, Air Force Exchange Service Gas Station. A comment was made that gas prices were determined by the cost of gas at Gas City, and the gas stations here in Sierra Vista match our prices.

Response: The AAFES Continental United States Gas Pricing Policy is stated in the paragraphs below. AAFES surveys five service stations in the local community that are deemed weekly as the “competi-

tion.” AAFES prices gasoline even with the lowest price surveyed. Only once recently has AAFES deviated from this policy. This took place during the broken pipeline episode that involved gasoline retailers raising prices prior to gas distributors cost price increases. AAFES region headquarters gave permission to general managers at Luke Air Force Base, Fort Huachuca and Davis Monthan Air Force Base to hold margins on gasoline pricing during this turbulent time. This was to avoid the military customer from being gouged as prices downtown increased. As stated below AAFES earnings, to include any made on the sale of gasoline, are returned to our customers in the form of dividends to MWR.

The AAFES gas pricing policy in CONUS is designed to offer the fairest price in the market. It is not set to invite Congressional inquiries from outside businesses, or to gouge the military customer, which would invite command reviews. AAFES will not participate in gas pricing practices that could be construed as starting “gas price wars” or be viewed as a mechanism for price busting. The survey method AAFES uses allows it to be fair and competitive with the community, maintain good relations with the local community station owners and still offer customers a fair price.

AAFES pays the same market price per gallon as a service station that pumps the same volume per month. When gas prices go up, AAFES has to pay for the increases, too. AAFES provides control over the margin applied by each of its service stations by requiring a specific method of determining gasoline prices. In CONUS, the pricing policy is to survey service stations, deemed by the local general manager to be the competition, and establish the AAFES price equal to the lowest price surveyed. However, based upon the survey method, there are exchange service stations that are selling at cost or below cost.

Unlike other merchandise, AAFES is required to pay state and local taxes on motor fuels as well as underground storage fees, etc. (Hayden Cartwright Act, 4 U.S.C. 104). This means the cost price is essentially the same as other civilian retailers. The state motor fuel taxes and other applicable fees paid by AAFES are included in the motor fuel price to the military

customer.

Income from the sale of gasoline, as with all goods and services AAFES provides, supports its mission. Its mission is to generate reasonable earnings. These earnings are returned to AAFES customers, either through construction/modernization of exchange facilities or to support the military’s MWR facilities, such as libraries, bowling alleys, golf courses, tour and ticket sales, child care, hobby shops, gyms, and more. Every cent earned goes back to the customers in one form or another.

The House Armed Services Committee exercises congressional oversight responsibility for all military exchanges. Limitations have been imposed on exchanges with respect to patronage, types of goods and services that may be offered, as well as prices on many commodities. Their primary concern has been to recognize that military personnel are entitled to convenient shopping facilities that offer reasonable savings, while at the same time assuring that exchanges do not create undue competition with the private sector. The limitations established by the HASC have achieved a reasonable balance between its concerns for the private sector and the needs of the Armed Forces.

Issue: A comment was made that the library is not open past 6:30 p.m. on weekdays nor is it open on the weekend, which makes it difficult for students or soldiers to use it. Please respond.

Response: Currently, the library has four full time employees. This enables the library to be open 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. If the library is open at night and on Sunday, then nighttime differential and Sunday premium pay become an issue because it consumes extra salary dollars. The library bases its hours of operation geared to meeting customer needs as well as possible given budget restraints. If demands are greatest for weekday after duty hours and weekends, regular duty hours will have to be reduced to compensate. The library is in the process of conducting a customer survey to determine what hours will best serve its customers. If the survey results support it, the library will adjust its hours accordingly.

Community Updates

New members wanted

The FHCSC, a non-profit organization that provides money for scholarships and community support is looking for new members. Call Wendy Breen at 378-1763 for membership information or sign up at an FHCSC event.

The annual FHCSC Holiday Bazaar is at Buena High School on Saturday at 9 a.m. Food and craft vendors are still being accepted. Call April Arnold at 458-1073 for details.

The annual Fort Huachuca Holiday Home tour is taking place on Dec. 7. In addition to seeing Fort Huachuca’s historic homes, this year’s tour will also include new post housing in Cavalry Park, live entertainment, food and beverages.

8th Annual Freedom Fund

The 8th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet Dinner and Dance will be held Nov. 8 beginning at 5:30 pm, at the LakeSide Activity Centre. The guest speaker will be Juanita Doty. Tickets are \$35. For more information, please e-mail the banquet committee chairman Frank Bothwell at buffalosoldier1@cox.net.

Dedication ceremony

The 111th Military Intelligence Brigade and Center for Cryptology Detachment will host the dedication ceremony of the Prosser Village TMC for the HM2 David R. Ray TMC at 8:30 - 10 a.m., Nov. 14. This event will be open to the general public, Fort Huachuca personnel, and family members. It will be held in the parking lot area outside of the TMC, Building 81501.

BOSS positions available

Do you think you have the leadership abilities to improve the Fort Huachuca Better Opportunities for Single Solders? The BOSS Program is looking for highly motivated single soldiers to make the program more active, visible, and productive. The positions that are available are president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. All positions are for a one-year term. The president will represent Fort Huachuca at the annual BOSS Conference to be held in September 2004 at Shades of Green in Orlando, Fla.

The BOSS program is built on three pillars; well being, recreation and leisure, and community service projects. If you think you have dynamic leadership abilities and can make a difference and support the three pillars of BOSS, e-mail the installation BOSS advisor with your name, unit, e-mail address, and a short paragraph on how your leadership abilities can improve the Fort Huachuca BOSS program. Send nominations to christopher.deasy@hua.army.mil.

Warrant Officers

The United States Army is looking for highly motivated soldiers to fill its Warrant Officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties if you qualify. Soldiers with less than 12 years active federal service (AFS) are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the Warrant Officer Recruiting Team at www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or DSN 536-0484, 536-0458, 536-0488, 536-0478, 539-1860, or 536-0271.

Recruit the Recruiter

United States Army Recruiting is seeking highly motivated and dedicated NCOs to assist in providing the strength of America’s Army.

Take the challenge and learn how you can become a member of the recruiting team. For more details, visit our Web site: www.usarec.army.mil/recruiter or DSN 536-0215, 539-0465, 539-0210 or 536-0457.



Spanish test at education center

A Spanish college-level examination program test is being offered at the Education Center. Active duty military are eligible to test for free. Family members may take the test for \$56.

The recommended credit hours are between six and 12; Cochise College grants 15 semester hour credits for the test, which involves audio and reading (all multiple-choice questions). For more information and reservations, call 533-2390, 533-5690 or 533-1701.

Command and general staff officers’ course

Majors still have an opportunity to enroll in the required

officer professional development course on post. Both phases I and III of the command and general staff officers course will start in October and meet one weekend each month.

The classroom option has numerous advantages over the correspondence version, including:

- A higher graduation rate and higher grade average;
- Workload sharing and interaction with active and reserve component students;
- Professional and structured learning environment, and;
- Instructor support.

Space for this class is limited. Anyone interested in enrolling may contact Bill Purciello at purciellow@hua.army.mil or 533-6514 or 803-1129.

After duty hours dental emergency

For true dental emergencies occurring after normal clinic hours, please contact the following:

DCQ (Dental Charge of Quarters) cellular telephone 227-5563 or, DCQ beeper # 533-3500-digital access code-# 306. Family members should seek emergency care from their Tricare Dental Plan personal dentist. Retirees should seek emergency care from the Tricare Retiree Dental Plan personal dentist. (Examples of true dental emergencies include: jaw fracture, lacerations, knocked out teeth, severely fractured or displaced teeth, oral swelling that interferes with breathing, fever greater than 101 degrees F from oral infection, uncontrollable hemorrhage or severe acute toothache pain not controlled by medication.) Questions can be referred to SSG Paul Orozco, NCOIC, Runion Dental Clinic at 533-3147. DENTAC policy requires that any female seeking after hours emergency care must have an escort with her at all times.



Save your organization money

The Hazardous Material Control Center, Logistics Management Division, has an inventory of hazardous materials available for issue at “no charge.” Listing of material is located on the Fort Huachuca Intranet (<http://fhintranet.hua.army.mil>). Material is issued on a first-come, first serve basis. Authorized customers may obtain material by contacting Larry Brooks, 533-1263.

Thrift savings plan

The next Thrift Savings Plan Open Season ends Dec. 31. During the open season, you may begin contributing to TSP or change the amount of your TSP contribution by logging on to <https://www.abc.army.mil>. Do not submit a TSP-1 form to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center office. It cannot process these forms. To make Interfund changes, use the www.tsp.gov Web site. If you have any questions, please call Eva Dixon at 533-5735 or Kelly Garland at 533-5273, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. or stop by CPAC, Building 22320.

Range Closures

Thursday – AL, AM, AR
Friday – AH, AK, AL, AR,
Saturday – AH, AK, AL, AR, AU, T1, T1A, T2
Sunday – AH, AK, AL, AR, AU, T1, T1A, T2
Monday – AC, AD, AH, AK, AL, AR
Tuesday – AH, AK, AL, AR, AU, T1, T1A, T2
Wednesday – AH, AK, AL, AM, AR, AW, T1, T1A, T2
Nov. 6 – AH, AK, AL, AM, AQ, AR, AW
Nov. 7 – AH, AK, AL, AM, AR, AW, T1, T1A, T2
Nov. 8 – AI, AL, T1, T1A, T2

Smooth Move

Smooth Move is a relocation workshop for first-termers and their family members. It will be held Nov. 18, 4:30p.m. at Army Community Service, Building 50010.

The workshop is designed to help ease the stress of making the first military move.

Basic information on relocating will be covered, including relocation benefits, a moving checklist and a question and answer session.

Registration is required and should be completed by Nov. 14 by



calling ACS at 533-2330. For additional information, contact Pamela Allen at 533-5919 or 533-2330.

Unit sponsorship training

The welfare and morale of Army families are essential factors which influence career motivation. An effective sponsorship program will benefit the individual and the Army by enhancing readiness at the unit level.

If you would like your unit sponsorship program to excel, invite your sponsors to attend one of the Army Community Service sponsorship training classes offered Nov. 19, 1:30 p.m. at Murr Community Center.

Please register no later than Nov. 17 by calling 533-2330 or 533-5919.

Germany orientation

Army Community Service is offering a Germany orientation Nov. 20, 6 p.m. at Murr Community Center for soldiers and family members going to Germany for the first time.

Registration is requested no later than Nov. 18 by calling ACS at 533-2330.

International spouse support group

Army Community Service invites all international spouses to join this support group. The group offers the opportunity to meet new people, network and relax. You can also pick up tips on American culture and the military lifestyle.

The group will meet Nov. 24 at 6 p.m. at ACS, Building 50010. Refreshments will be served. R.S.V.P. no later than Nov. 20 by calling 533-2330.

ACS Support Group

Is your spouse deployed or on an unaccompanied tour? Would you like a place to connect with others who are in the same situation? Join the ACS support group and make new friends, network and relax. Refreshments will be served. The group will meet Nov. 25 at 6 p.m. at ACS, Building 50010.

Register no later than Nov. 21 by calling 533-2330.

Tribute to veterans at MAC luncheon

November’s MAC luncheon is a tribute to veterans in honor of the upcoming Veteran’s Day holiday. The primary theme is “Bring a Vet to Lunch” and it gives community members the chance to sponsor a vet for lunch and show our appreciation.

The guest speaker is Erwin “Swede” Hueslwede, White House liaison to the Department of Veteran’s Affairs.

The luncheon is being held Wednesday at La Hacienda at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 per ticket. Please RSVP through the Chamber of Commerce at 458-6940.



Government Charge Card Changes

Effective Sept. 1, military travelers who use their government charge card (Bank of America Visa) for TDY expenses are required to check the split disbursement box in block one of the travel voucher (DD 1351-2) form. The amount annotated for split disbursement should equal the amount charged to the card. If your orders state that you are a government card holder and you do not use split disbursement, your voucher may be returned or the travel office may add the lodging receipts, rental car charges and any air fare claimed and send the proceeds directly to the charge card company as a split disbursement.

Child Care Training

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is now accepting applications for their November 2003 training class. Family members 18 years of age and older interested in earning an extra income by caring for children in their home should plan to attend the next scheduled training.

The training is scheduled to begin Wednesday. Training is Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The training is free of charge to all interested parties. Class sizes are limited; therefore, interested parties are urged to begin the enrollment process as soon as possible.

Prior to attendance in this training, interested personnel should contact the FCC office for an application. For more information, call the Fort Huachuca FCC program at 533-2498 or stop by and visit them in Murr Community Center. The FCC office is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact the director via email at fcc@hua.army.mil.

Correction

In the Oct. 23 issue of The Fort Huachuca Scout newspaper, a health news article about National Lead Poisoning Awareness Week was inadvertently combined with a health news article about Halloween candy. The lead poisoning article was written by Capt. Paul Fowler, industrial hygienist at Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center.

Dangers of flameless rations heaters

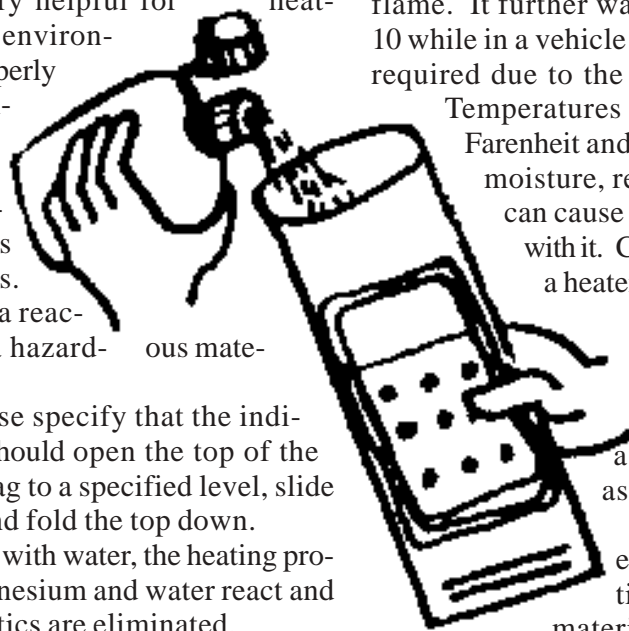
FROM THE FORT HUACHUCA FIRE DEPARTMENT

These devices are very helpful for heating MREs, but can cause environmental problems if not properly discarded. The heaters consist of a plastic bag containing a piece of fiber board and powdered magnesium or magnesium alloys and a few other materials. Powdered magnesium is a reactive solid and therefore a hazardous material.

The instructions for use specify that the individual using the heater should open the top of the bag, pour water into the bag to a specified level, slide the food into the pouch and fold the top down.

When heaters are filled with water, the heating process is initiated. The magnesium and water react and the hazardous characteristics are eliminated.

Warnings on the pouch indicate that hydrogen, a



flammable gas, will be generated during the heating process and warns the user not to place in or near an open flame. It further warns the user not to use more than 10 while in a vehicle or shelter. Adequate ventilation is required due to the hydrogen gas replacing oxygen.

Temperatures will normally reach 200 degrees Fahrenheit and may, with insufficient amount of moisture, reach 250 degrees Fahrenheit, which can cause burns if your skin comes in contact with it. Caution is also given about carrying a heater in your clothing because of burns.

As long as the MRE heater is properly used, there is no environmental problem. When the heater is not activated and is discarded as a waste, it must now be treated as a hazardous waste.

Hydrogen gas from several heaters can create a dangerous condition. Mixed with other flammable materials in a landfill, it can produce a fire that would be very difficult to extinguish.